



First Presbyterian Church of Albany

BRINGING THE LIGHT OF FAITH TO ALL

Reign of Christ Sunday
November 24, 2024 • 10:30 Worship



Welcome!

Whether you are worshipping with us for the first time or have grown up here at FPC, we are glad you are worshipping here this morning!

The Gathering

**indicates when to rise in body or spirit*

Prelude

Prelude on St. Columba

M. Searle Wright

Welcome & Announcements

Ringing of the Bell

Choral Introit

Open Now These Gates of Beauty
First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

Gordon Young

Open now these gates of beauty, open now these doors of love;
may the love of Christ, our Savior come and dwell here from above.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Amen.

*Call to Worship

One: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kin-dom of heaven.

All: Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

One: Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

All: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

One: Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

All: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

One: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

All: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kin-dom of heaven.

One: We are the salt of the earth, the light of the world.

All: We will let our light shine before others, and our shining will give glory to God.

One: Let us worship the living God.

***Prayer of Confession**

Gracious and loving God, we come before you as people trapped in our own prejudices and assumptions. We are convinced that we know what a Christian should do, and so do not need to be open to correction. We have allowed hatreds to be considered virtues, and we have carelessly asserted that our morality is your morality. We have used your word to buttress our own bad behavior, and we have turned our faith into a weapon against the vulnerable. We pray for your forgiveness. We also pray to be reconstructed. Open us to new ways of knowing, learning, and being. Give us new hearts and minds so that we may live more faithfully as forgiven and forgiving people.

Silent prayers of personal confession may be offered.

***Kyrie Eleison**



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, Have mer-cy up-on us.

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

***The Welcome and Peace**

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

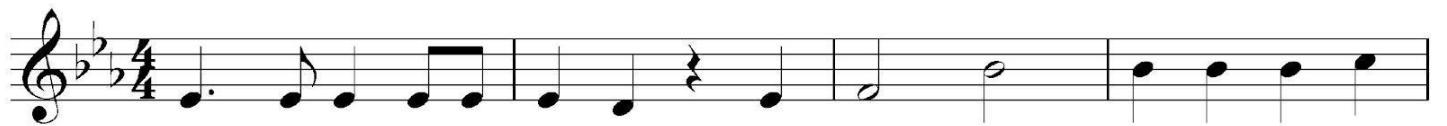
All: And also with you.

The congregation greets one another with words and signs of peace.

***Gloria Patri No. 581**

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the



Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be - gin - ning, is



now, and ev - er shall be, world with-out end. A - men, A - men.

The Word

Old Testament Lesson

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 (O.T., p.828)

Roger Green

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 93

Joshua Gurwitz, *tenor*



The Lord is king; God is robed in ma - jes - ty.

(Cantor sings the refrain once then followed by the congregation)

The Lord is king, in splendor robed; robed is the Lord and girt about with strength **(R)**

You have made the world firm, not to be moved. Your throne stands firm from of old; from everlasting you are, O Lord. **(R)**

Your decrees are worthy of trust indeed; holiness befits your house, O Lord, for length of days. **(R)**

Anthem

King of All Ages, Throned on High

Paul Isom

First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

King of all ages, throned on high, yet savior too of those with faith.

Death at your onslaught died in fear and grace triumphant rules supreme.

Risen from death, the heavenly Christ receives from God the Father's hand power over all created things: a gift he could not know on earth.

Then at your coming on the clouds with shining strength to be our judge, cancel the debt we owe you still, give back the glory we have lost.

Glory to you, O Christ, exalted far beyond our sight, reigning for evermore, with Father and with Paraclete. Amen

Gospel Lesson

John 18:33-37 (N.T., p. 113)

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Christ the Kin Sunday

Glenn Leupold

Our Response

***Hymn No. 800**

Sometimes a Light Surprises

SALLY GARDENS

Transgender Day of Remembrance Litany

One: Today we remember; diverse gender identities and expressions, each a sacred representation of our creator.

All: We are God's beloved!

One: Today we acknowledge; that we are all on a journey of transformation, though it may be more physical for some, each journey is unique and beautiful.

All: We are God's beloved!

One: Today we remember; that not everyone has an advocate and sometimes we must be the advocate in the face of injustice.

All: We are God's beloved!

One: Today we acknowledge; that it takes incredible strength to be a vulnerable person in the world.

All: We are God's beloved!

One: Today we remember; the lives that were taken through ignorance, violence, and hate and hold these transgender people in our hearts, as well as their families.

All: We are God's beloved!

One: Today we acknowledge; the fear that may reside in us, fear of ourselves and fear of the other, and say to this fear:

All: We are God's beloved!

Prayers of the People

*There is a "Prayers of the People" book on the table in the back of the sanctuary. We encourage the congregation to write their concerns and thanksgivings in the book before the service so they can be included in the Prayers of the People. Several petitions are offered, each concluding with: O God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts

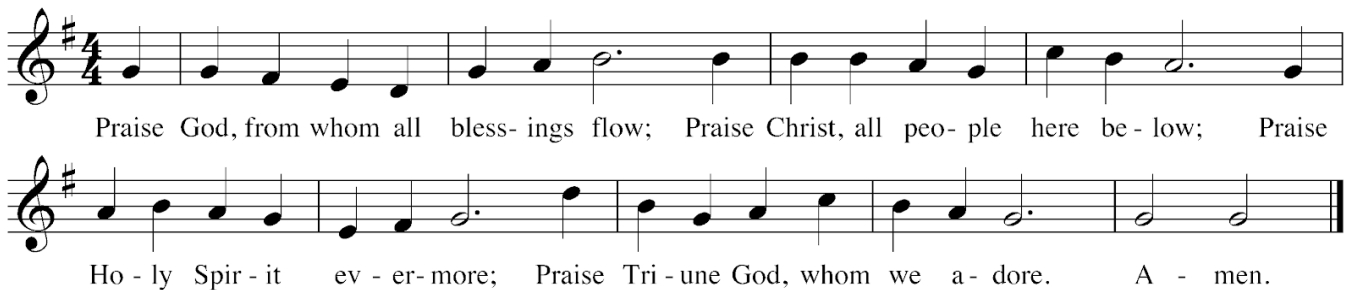
Ushers will pass the offering plates to each pew. There are also offering receptacles located in the back of the sanctuary. You may place your offering in one on the way into worship or as you leave. You may also donate online at <https://firstpresalbany.org/give/> or scan the QR code to the right.



Offertory

The Cameroon Singers

*Doxology (sung in unison)



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Christ, all peo-ple here be-low; Praise
Ho-ly Spir-it ev-er-more; Praise Tri-une God, whom we a-dore. A-men.

*Prayer of Dedication

The Eucharist (Thanksgiving)

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

All those, including children, who seek the way of Christ and desire fellowship in the church are invited to the Lord's Table to share in our common meal of Thanksgiving.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(prayer continues)

One: ...Hear us now as together we pray the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, saying:
All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread and Communion of the People

The congregation is served at the front of the sanctuary, coming forward by the center aisle and returning by the side aisles. Communion is by intinction – take a piece of bread from the loaf or a piece of pita from the plate, dip it into the cup of juice, and eat. When served, you may respond by saying “Amen,” “Thanks be to God,” or another response. You may choose a sealed prepackaged communion element from one of the baskets – the ones with “GF” are gluten-free. If you prefer to receive communion in the pew, you may remain in your seat and signal an usher. Servers will bring you the elements.

Communion Music

I Am the Bread of Life
Joshua Gurwitz, tenor

I AM THE BREAD

I am the bread of life.

You who come to me shall not hunger, and who believe in me shall not thirst.

No one can come to me unless the Father beckons.

The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world, and if you eat of this bread, you shall live forever; you shall live forever.

Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man and drink of his blood, and drink of his blood, you shall not have life within you.

I am the resurrection; I am the life.

If you believe in me, even though you die, you shall live forever.

Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who has come into the world.

Refrain: And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up, and I will raise you up on the last day.

Prayer after Communion

All: Lord God, we give you thanks for feeding us in this sacrament. Be with us as we live our lives as those who carry you in our hearts and minds. Be with us as we live as those who have been brought into community. Be with us as we lead people out from the margins and into your love. Be with us as we depart with the sweet taste of salvation still on our lips. Amen

The Sending

***Hymn No. 643**

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

***Charge and Blessing**

***Response by the People (in unison) Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Amen.**

***Responsive Hymn No. 742**

We Will Walk with God

SIZOHAMBA NAYE

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: "We will walk ___ with God, my sib - lings, we will walk ___ with God." on the first two staves, and "We will go re - joic - ing. ___ till the king - dom has come." on the last two staves. The lyrics are written in a simple, sans-serif font, with hyphens used for syllables that span across two lines of music.

Postlude

Chorale on "Nun Danket Alle Gott", Op. 65, No. 59

Sigfried Karg-Elert

You may be seated if you wish to listen to the postlude.

Please come to Assembly Hall for Fellowship Time.

For your convenience and as an aid to your worship experience, large print hymnals and Bibles are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

The music is reprinted under CCLI License #2853455 and OneLicense #A-716938.

During worship today, we are marking **Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR)** which honors the memory of those people murdered in acts of anti-transgender violence. It is recognized annually on November 20. TDOR serves several purposes. It raises public awareness of hate crimes against transgender people, an action that current media doesn't perform. TDOR publicly mourns and honors the lives of our transgender siblings who might otherwise be forgotten. We express love and respect for transgender people in the face of national indifference and hatred. TDOR reminds us that trans people may be our children, parents, lovers, friends, acquaintances, church members, et al.

Serving you on Sunday, November 24

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: John Abunaw, Kate Pruzek, Bob Stevens, Linda Stevens, and Sahil Yashib

Online Worship Assistant: Fadia Ghobrial

Scripture Reader: Roger Green

Prayer Reader: Karen Brown

Communion Servers: Ellen Eisenbraun & Roseline Taylor

Offering Counters: Marc Boucher & Carol Green

Serving you on Sunday, December 1

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: Jeff Durgee, Ellen Kemp, Rachel Smith, and Roseline Takor

Online Worship Assistant: Jeff & Meddy Jacques

Scripture Reader: Chas Kite

Prayer Reader: John Myers

Communion Servers: David Takor & Betsy Hadden

Offering Counters: John Myers & Yousaf Mathias

Audio Visual Specialist: Kevin Fuscus

All are Welcome in this Place!

New faces and voices are always welcome and add to the spirit of our worship, education, mission and fellowship. Let us know you worshipped with us by either filling in the yellow card in the pew in front of you or by scanning the QR code. Pastors Miriam & Glenn use email addresses to share congregational email and important announcements about the life of the church.



First Presbyterian Church

is a community for all people where apprentices of Jesus seek to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

We are called by God to envision and work toward eradicating systemic poverty, eliminating structural racism and sharing the experience of the good news of God's love, peace and joy.

We welcome children to our worship services. Nursery care for children ages birth through kindergarten is provided on the second floor of the Christian Education Building. Nursery care is available from 8:45am to 12:15pm and is staffed by experienced childcare providers Morgan Odom and Mary Margaret Cabuhat.

Parking is available on Sunday mornings in Washington Park. There is also a parking lot on Washington Avenue just west of Lark Street available during church services on Sunday mornings. The church parking lot on Sunday mornings is reserved for visitors and for those who, for physical reasons, need close access to the church. Please note the spaces reserved for those with disabilities, and please do not block other cars.

We continue to livestream our Sunday worship services on Facebook.

Christian Education on Sunday mornings

9:15-10:15 Education Classes in the Education Building

Godly Play in the Preschool Class on 2nd floor (age 3 thru kindergarten)

Godly Play in The Upper Rooms on 3rd floor (Grades 1-5)

Youth Education in the Youth Room on 2nd floor (Grades 6-12)

Adult Education is the Rose Room

Announcements

Today the **Adult Education Class** learned more about Transgender Day of Remembrance. **Next Sunday, December 1**, we will explore the meaning behind the first Sunday in Advent.

Would you like to sponsor a **poinsettia plant** to decorate the sanctuary in Advent and Christmas this year? You may do so in honor or memory of a loved one, and that dedication will be noted in the worship bulletin beginning December 22. There are three ways to make your dedication. 1) By emailing the church office (info@firstpresalbany.org) a note that spells out the dedication as well as the name of the dedicator. Then visit the website (firstpresalbany.org/give/), scroll down to the bottom of the page and make your payment online (\$16 per poinsettia) OR 2) Fill out one of the forms that is located in the pews in the sanctuary and put that and your check in the offering plate or offering box OR 3) Mail a check to the church for \$16 per poinsettia, along with a note that spells out the dedication as well as name of the dedicator. **Deadline is December 15.**

Calling all creative vendors! First Pres is hosting a **Handmade Holiday Market-place** on First Friday, **December 6**. If you or a talented friend would like to participate, please contact David Hinchon at ds.hinchon@verizon.net or 518-489-1854.

The Youth of First Pres are hosting a Giving Tree for the Northern Rivers Holiday Giving Campaign. Please visit the Giving Tree in the Assembly Hall. It is laden with gift tags from Northern Rivers' Teen Wish List for youth ages 13-19 served by Northern Rivers agencies. **Simply take** a gift tag from the Giving Tree, purchase the gift, and **return both the tag and gift to the church by Sunday, December 15.** Please return all gifts unwrapped.

A Message from the Stewardship Team: Many thanks to all who filled out a financial pledge card for 2025. If you have not submitted your pledge card, we hope you will do so soon. We are counting on you! If you need a pledge card, there are extras on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Another option is to fill out a pledge card online at our website (firstpresalbany.org/pledge/).



Aging With Pride
Monthly Potluck
Sunday, December

1, 1:00pm - 3:00pm First Pres Church.
This is a wonderful opportunity for LGBTQ+ seniors to come together in a welcoming, supportive environment to share food, stories, and laughter.

The **paraments** (the cloth on the pulpit, lectern, and communion table) and the **pastors' stoles** (the cloth around their necks) are white, the liturgical color for Reign of Christ Sunday (today). White symbolizes days and season of joy and mark pivotal events in the life of Christ (Christmas and Easter).

Each month the **FOCUS Food Pantry** requests items from its member churches. FPC's December donation is shampoo. All items must be new and unopened. The **FOCUS Food Pantry** is also requesting one-pound bags of rice, as they are unable to get these from suppliers, as well as cake mix and frosting for the Christmas baskets to be collected by December 8th. Please leave donations in the box in Assembly Hall. Questions? Call Susan Sneeringer at 518-496-4793.

Calling all bakers and cooks: Whether it's a dozen cookies, a pan of brownies, a bottle of seltzer, dip & chips, or crudité, please contribute to First Friday Festive Snack Table - contact Pastor Miriam to let her know what you'll be bringing.

Festival of THANKS & GIVING

All are welcome to this free event
A simple lunch will be available

Sunday, November 24
Noon to 2 pm



FOCUS
CHURCHES OF ALBANY

Donations of non-perishable food are welcome to support the FOCUS Breakfast Club and Food Pantries.

- **Support your neighbors!**
- **Play games and make art together!**
- **Practice gratitude!**



WESTMINSTER
Presbyterian Church

85 Chestnut Street in Albany
Limited parking available



First Fridays at First Presbyterian

An Experience of Visual and Musical Art

Friday, December 6, 2024

Johann Sebastian Bach

Magnificat

First Presbyterian Chancel Choir,
Soloists, and Chamber Orchestra

Michael Lister, director

Trevor Kahlbaugh, Organ

Songs of the Virgin

First Presbyterian Octet



In the Gallery:

Holiday Artisan Marketplace

Concert begins at 6:00 pm

Art Gallery hours: 5:30 ~ 8:00 pm

362 State Street (1 block off of Lark Street)

WORDS

FOR THE BEGINNING

REMINDERS FOR NEW SEASONS



YOU ARE A BLESSING



WE CAN'T GO ALONE



**DO THE GOOD THAT
IS YOURS TO DO**



DON'T FORGET TO LAUGH



HOPE IS WORTH THE RISK



THE ROAD ISN'T STRAIGHT



LOVE KNOWS YOUR NAME

**Come explore these words with us each Sunday
during Advent and Christmas**

**10:30am worship service in the sanctuary and
online (Facebook and YouTube)**

11:45am Fellowship Time



for more info



FOR THE **BE**GINNING

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT FIRST PRES

Join us for special events

Friday, December 6 – First Friday at First Pres

5:30–8:00pm Holiday Artisan Marketplace

6:00pm Concert – *Songs of the Virgin*

First Presbyterian Octet

6:45pm Concert – *Bach's Magnificat*

with Chancel Choir, Orchestra and Soloists

Saturday, December 14 - Potluck and Carol Sing

5:00 –7:00pm ALL AGES welcome!

Dinner and carol singing in Assembly Hall

Thursday, December 19 – Labyrinth open to the public

11:00am–2:00pm and 5:00 –7:00pm

Come walk the labyrinth

Guides on hand to answer questions

Sunday, December 22 - Cookie Exchange

11:45am during Fellowship Time

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Sunday, 11/24	11:45 am Fellowship Time 12:30 pm December First Friday Music Rehearsal
Monday, 11/25	7:00pm FCC Rehearsal
Tuesday, 11/26	6:30pm FOCUS Board Meeting
Thursday, 11/28	Church Office Closed
Friday, 11/29	Church Office Closed

Next Sunday, 12/01

9:15 am Adult Education
9:15 am Children's Education (1st through 5th grade)
9:15 am Preschool Education
9:15 am Youth Education
9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am Worship Service in the sanctuary and livestreaming on Facebook
11:45 am Fellowship Time
12:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
1:00 pm Aging with Pride Monthly Potluck



First Presbyterian
Church of Albany

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*Glenn D. Leupold, Co-Pastor • Miriam Lawrence Leupold, Co-Pastor • Michael C. Lister, Director of Music
Trevor Kahlbaugh, Organist • Molly Dowell, Youth Director • Steven Minchin, Office Administrator*



Check out our socials!

645 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all
 2 What God's al-might - y power has made God's gra - cious mer -
 3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but, through all grief
 4 Thus all my toil - some way a - long I sing a - loud

cre - a - tion, the God of power, the God of love,
 cy keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade
 dis - tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay,
 thy prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song

the God of our sal - va - tion. With
 God's watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth. With -
 our peace and joy and bless - ing, as
 my voice un - wea - ried rais - es. Be

heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and ev - ery faith - less
 in the king - dom of God's might, lo! all is just and
 with a moth - er's ten - der hand God gent - ly leads the
 joy - ful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and bod - y,

The regal divine imagery here will not be new to most singers, but some may not expect the third stanza's image of God as mother. Yet it is part of God's self-description in Isaiah 66:13. This Bohemian Brethren tune resembles both Genevan psalm tunes and French folk songs.

643 Now Thank We All Our God

1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,

who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:

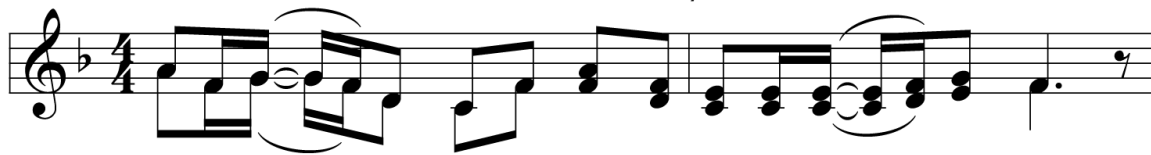
who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

Although this hymn is often used on large and festive occasions, its first two stanzas had much humbler beginnings: they originated as a family table prayer during the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648). These words have been associated with this tune since the mid-17th century.

742 We Will Walk with God

Sizohamba naye



We will walk with God, my broth-ers; we will walk with God.
Si - zo - ham - ba na - ye, wo wo wo, si - zo - ham - ba na - ye.



We will walk with God, my sis-ters; we will walk with God.
Si - zo - ham - ba na - ye, wo wo wo, si - zo - ham - ba na - ye.



We will go re - joic - ing till the king - dom has come.
Ngom-hla wen - ja - bu - la, si - zo - ham - ba na - ye.



We will go re - joic - ing till the king - dom has come.
Ngom-hla wen - ja - bu - la, si - zo - ham - ba na - ye.

With its themes of commitment and sending, this energetic song from Swaziland works well for ending a time together, either an occasion of worship or some other gathering. The simple tune does not require supporting instruments but invites percussion and improvisation.